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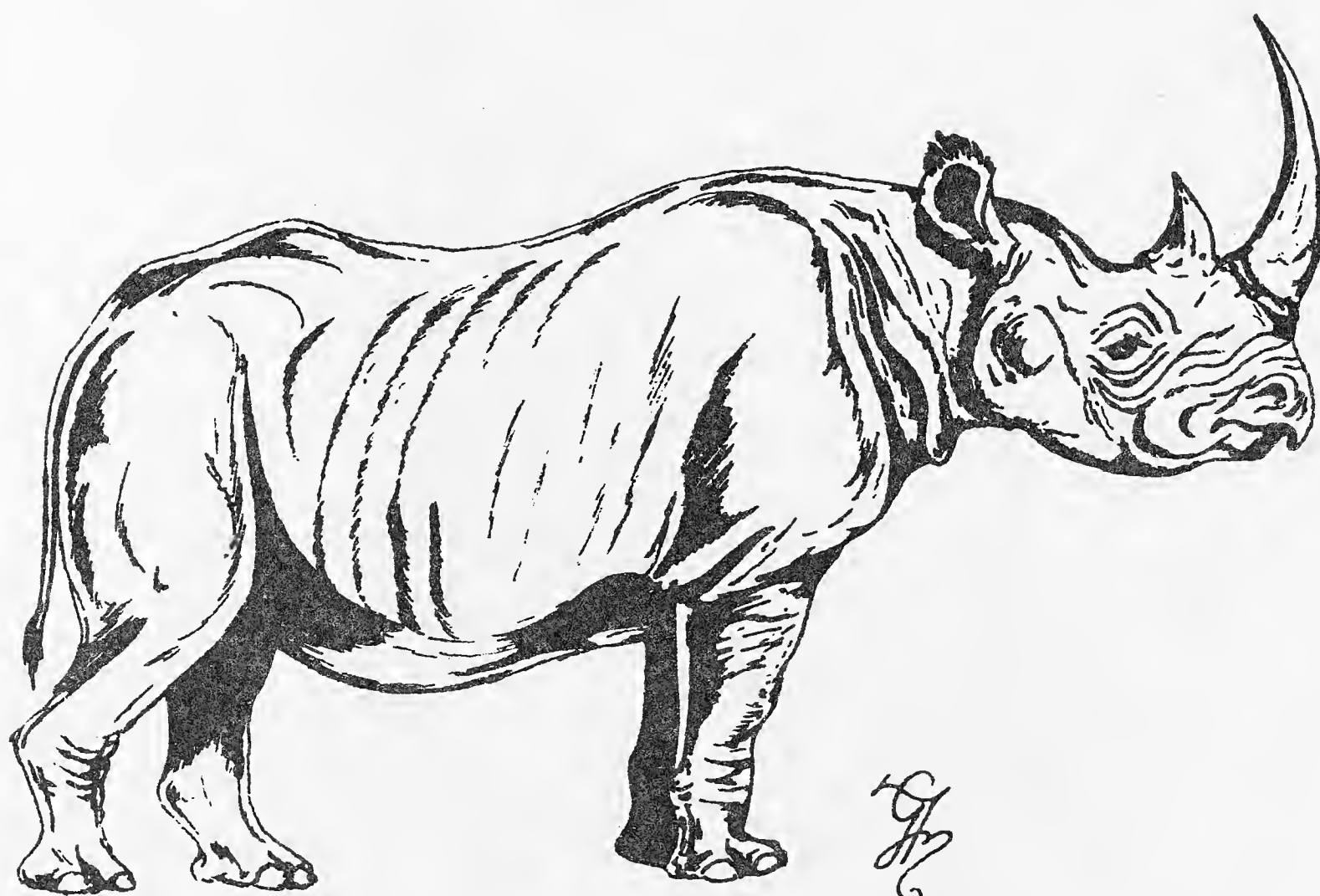
A_{SSOCIATION OF}

Z_{OO}

K_{EEPERS}



B U L L E T I N





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

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8024 Tommy Drive

San Diego, California 92119

714 - 463-0738

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CONTACT

AAZK HEADQUARTERS

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Mr. Ken Kawata, Editor, Topeka Zoological Park, Topeka, Kansas
Miss Jeri Yagello, Editorial Assistant, Topeka Zoological Park, Topeka, Kansas
Virginia Sweeney, Mimeographer
Richard G. Sweeney & Ken Kennedy, Staff Writers
Gary K. Clarke, Editorial Advisor, Topeka Zoological Park, Topeka, Kansas

NEWS FROM THE CALGARY ZOO by Walter Hoffman

The Calgary Chapter of A.A.Z.K. is over a year and a half old now, and is developing very well. On the whole, our first year was restricted to organization and recruitment of members. In the last six months, however, we have begun several projects to arouse the interest of the public in the importance of zoos and zookeeper's job. Our major project has been the takeover of part of the heavy lecture load from our Society-run Education office. At present we are looking after Brownie, Guide, Cub and Scout groups within the city. The response so far is excellent and we will be glad to report further, once we have had time to better analyze the project.

We have also been allowed to set up A.A.Z.K. displays around the zoo with pictures and reports depicting the endangered species of the world. These reports are changed from time to time and appear to draw the interest of zoo visitors.

Our other project at present is to affect closer ties between the various working groups within the Zoo. Due to our dual management set-up (City and Society) we have several groups of workers under different control than us.

We have encouraged the Society staff from the Children's Zoo to join us as Associate members to create a complete animal care picture. At the same time, we have organized social functions for all office, maintenance, gardening, as well as keeper staff. This creates more personal ties between the different facets of our operation and thus increases and simplifies the exchange of ideas within the Zoo.

We are eager to learn of any special projects being developed by other A.A.Z.K. Chapter which might possibly aide us in transmitting the goals of A.A.Z.K. to the public.

Nineteen seventy has been a successful year for breeding at the Calgary Zoo also, and below are listed our more important births:

2/0 Orang-utans
1/0 Squirrel Monkey
1/1 European Eagle Owls firsts for Calgary Zoo
0/1 Hippopotamus
1 White Stork
2 Demoiselle Cranes

Also born were: 1/0 Moose, 3/1 Timber wolves, 3 European Wildcats, 0/2 Ring-tailed Lemur, Red Kangaroo, 0/2 Collared Peccary, 1/0 Reticulated Giraffe, 1 Trumpeter Swan, 3 Mute Swans, Fulvous Tree Ducks, 1/0 South American Tapir, 1/1 Reeves Muntjacs, 1/0 White Throated Capuchin, 3/1 Coatimundi, 1/0 Rhesus Monkey, 1/1 Whitetail Deer, 1/0 Buffalo, 0/1 Elk, Mountain Goat, 0/1 Pronghorn Antelope, 1/0 Llama, 0/1 Guanaco, 1/3 Siberian Reindeer, 3/0 Wood Duck, 0/1 Sika Deer.

We are sorry to announce the death of our 10 year old female Lowland Gorilla. "Toni" died as the result of an apparent fall from a balcony during boisterous play with her mate "Tuffy". This is a very sad death because these two were just maturing and exhibiting breeding activity. Steps are being taken to replace "Toni" and also to ensure that such an accident doesn't happen again.

NEWS FROM PHOENIX ZOO CHAPTER OF AAZK

Mr. Ralph Jones, Chapter President of the Phoenix Zoo, Arizona, reports that the 1971 membership in AAZK represents 100% participation of their animal department. In addition they now boast some eighteen associate

supporters.

Our congratulations to these people for their enthusiastic support our AAZK.

1971 officers for their chapter are:

Mr. Ralph Jones, President
Mr. Dave Langdon, Vice President
Miss. Jane Zavatta, Secretary
Miss. Marilyn Scott, Treasurer
Mr. Al Valenzuela, Sgt at Arms

PHILADELPHIA ZOO NEWS by Bradford Beckley

Sara, the orang-utan born in the Rare Mammal House on Monday, August 17, 1970 is still being cared for by her foster parents, the Bowlers. Kevin, Assistant Curator of Reptiles and his wife, Ellen, took over the nighttime duties of rearing Sara when the baby's mother, Christine, refused the responsibility.

With the conclusion of the formal class instructions, the Keepers Training program began its on-the-job training. All Apprentice Keepers and Junior Keepers with less than three years experience will spend one hour a week benefitting from the experience of Senior Keepers. Classes will take place in the various animal houses where the respective Senior Keeper will demonstrate the proper procedures for animal handling and care.

Our two groups of three baby gorillas each have recently been allowed to intermingle for short periods during the day. The introduction of the six was accomplished in two stages. Between their enclosures in the Rare Mammal House is a doorway blocked by both a solid and a barred door. The solid door was opened to permit the youngsters to familiarize themselves with one another by sight, smell, and limited touching through the bars. This first stage went on during the daytime for three weeks under close supervision.

Then, and again under heavy supervision, the last barrier was slid back giving the two groups free access to each others enclosure. The one group consisted of two males and one female, the other group two females and one male. At last report all six are doing nicely.

Children's Zoo Superintendent, Bob Callahan, and his assistant, Ann Menichini, are back on the road with the School Bus for Animals. Conservation and animal preservation are the themes of this year's program which began its eleventh season on Wednesday, November 2. An estimated 40,000 youngsters will be exposed to the educational program.

A popular and long-time resident of the Zoo is gone. Buster, the Galapagos tortoise, died on Wednesday, December 2. Buster arrived on May 16, 1946 and was so small, that Zoo Director and Curator of Reptiles, Roger Conant remembers holding him on one hand. Buster died of osteomyelitis, a shell infection. The giant reptile, whose age was estimated at about 30 years, was last weighed in May 1969 and his weight was then a rousing 480 lbs. He will be missed.

For the sixth consecutive year, Zoo attendance has increased. A total of 1,263,385 people visited the Garden. In the 96 years of the Zoo's operation approximately 40,618,886 people have passed through its gates.

On the lighter side. Petal, our large African elephant, must have been a little hungrier than usual on Friday, January 15 or maybe just a little more curious. Anyway, while her keeper was sweeping out the three ton elephant's cage that afternoon, he leaned over just a little too far. Petal's trunk quickly snaked around to his back pocket, and pulled out his paycheck, and she promptly ate it.

NEW ANIMALS AT THE ZOO

Early in December the Zoo was extremely fortunate when it received three

very valuable snakes from Mrs. Eugenia Shorrock of Reading, Mass. On the advice of Charles Shaw, Assistant Director and Curator of Reptiles at the San Diego Zoo and the person who keeps the books on reptile longevities, Mrs. Shorrock donated seven snakes to us. Included were three that surpass the previous snake longevity record of approximately 30 years. They are an Indian Python and a South American Boa both aged 34 and a Northern Copperhead age 30. The others are a Western Diamondback rattlesnake, a South Florida Kingsnake, an Eastern Kingsnake and a Florida Pinesnake.

The Bird Department recently purchased several rare South American birds from a dealer. Those purchased were: three rufous-faced antipittas; two versicolored barbets; one blue backed manakin; and one orange-eared tanager. All of the birds are rare in Zoo collections.

D-donated B-born E-exchanged P-purchased

2 Skunks D	1 Albino Snapper Turtle D
1 Barn Owl E	2 Timber Wolves D
5 Meerkats B	1 Gold and Blue Macaw D
2 Kirk's Dik-dik B	1 Fantail Pigeon B
1 Vampire Bat B	2 Turkeys D
15 Baby Corn Snakes D	1 Opossum D
1 Dunlin Sandpiper D	3 Geckos D
1 Sloth P	14 Brazilian Rainbow Boas B
1 Bartletts Pigeon B	2 Sungazer Lizards P
1 Purple Throated Sunangel P	1 African Green Bush Viper D

FOLSOM CITY ZOO FORMS CHAPTER!! by Dick Sweeney

Mr. Gordon Brong, AAZK, has petitioned national headquarters for permission to form a chapter of AAZK at his zoo. Total number of keepers: 2. Names: Gordon Brong, Mrs. Elsie Brong. President, Gordon Brong. Mr. Brong have these grounds for the basis of his application. "I would have no worries about a quorum, no worries about renting a hall for a meeting, no budget problems, but a damn good assurance of attending national AAZK functions."

Board action: Chapter #19 issued to keepers of Folsom City Zoo, Folsom, California, January 1, 1971.

First guest speaker at their organizational meeting: Mrs. Elsie Brong. Who else!!!

NOTES FROM MELBOURNE ZOO, AUSTRALIA

Education Department: Members of the technical staff, in collaboration with Mr. G. C. Morris, Education Officer, are producing a monthly NEWSLETTER to provide the Board's staff with news of events taking place within the zoo and to give keepers the opportunity to contribute articles of interest concerning the animals in their charge.

(Taken from annual report, Melbourne Zoological Gardens, J. H. Sullivan, Director)

STANLEY PARK ZOO NEWS FOR 1970 by Ken Kennedy

The two young fruit bats which were born in January, 1970 have been doing well. They are the first ones this zoo has been able to keep for longer than a month or two. In mid December and January more were born and appear to be doing fine.

Andy, the lesser panda which had been in our collection since 1960 finally died in late December. His mate died some five years previous. He was a favorite of a lot of visitors who would bring him some bamboo which he

would accept graciously. He unquestionably died from old age and was shown to have a liver problem too.

Just recently a "Joey" stuck his head out of mother's pouch for the first time. This is the first red kangaroo to be born since we lost our original male. We then received a male from Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo and were not sure whether any mating had occurred. All appears fine now.

In November, a deal was made through a member of staff at the University of British Columbia to ship an immature bald eagle to the Budapest Zoo in Hungary. The enthusiasm of such an exchange was immeasurable. Their zoo is quite large and beautiful. They have had 26 young hippopotami born and raised in 30 years and even polar bears. I hope to have more on the Budapest Zoo later.

The annual Christmas bird count netted 85 species of birds in and around our Stanley Park. The Great Horned Owl which is around the zoo in the evenings was the only one on the count. A single, Virginia Rail was spotted on the reeds of an almost frozen lagoon.

The Harlequin and Old Squaw were two members of waterfowl which were also in the area at count time. The Park has had three extremely unusual visitors from the European scene, the Tufted Duck, at least two different individuals, the Smew also possibly 2, and the spotted Red Shank which was out at the George C. Reifle Waterfowl Refuge. All were here long enough to be seen by a number of experienced birders. Keep your eyes open for any of these rarities in your ear. With birds anything is possible.

Our pair of Hoolock Gibbons had their fourth offspring, second surviving born on November 24, 1970. The mother looking after it fine for about a month. Then junior of 1967 was seen swinging by and taking swipes at it. So it was decided to take it away from the mother. This was done and it is doing very well in the care of Assistant Curator, Larry LeSage and his wife.

ORANG BIRTH AT OVERTON PARK ZOO

Mr. Dennis Jacobs, primate keeper at Overton Park Zoo, Memphis, Tenn. reports the birth of a male Orangutan born 9 January 1971. The baby is being raised by its mother, and is doing well. He has been named "Olly".

TAPIR BITES THREE AT SAN DIEGO ZOO

Chivalry put two San Diego Zoo employees in a hospital Thursday, January 7, 1971.

All underwent surgery for tapir bites of the hands and arms. A woman visitor was also injured.

Richard G. Sweeney, a Senior Keeper at the San Diego Zoo and Clyde A. Hill, Associate Curator of Mammals of the Zoo were showing the Zoo's tapir collection to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson, who raise tapirs at Claremont, California.

Mrs. Wilson reached into an enclosure to pet a male Baird's tapir. The animal bit her fingers. When the animal would not let her go, Sweeney vaulted the low fence to assist her, and the animal turned on him. Hill then jumped into the enclosure to help Sweeney and was also attacked by the animal. All were taken to Mercy Hospital in San Diego for emergency surgery.

Most severely injured was Hill, who suffered bites on both hands. Sweeney was bitten in the right forearm and right thigh. Mrs. Wilson suffered the loss of one finger tip and lacerations of the hand.

All are reported in good condition.

WHOOPING CRANES GAIN IN COMEBACK

The greatest number of Whooping cranes counted in the last half century, 57 is wintering at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf Coast.

The latest official count showed the rare birds gained by one over the 56 counted last year. Their comeback from near extinction has symbolized conservationists' efforts to save the natural environment from destruction.

The world's total whooper population increased to 73, counting the wild birds, 14 others in government wildlife programs and single specimens in zoos in San Antonio, Tex., and New Orleans. In 1941 only 15 of the giant cranes existed.

(This information was supplied in January, 1971 by Mr. Kenton C. Lint, Curator of Birds of San Diego Zoo and the President of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association)

THE GLADYS PORTER ZOO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS by Marvin Jones

The newest zoo in the Americas is scheduled to open 1 July 1971, in the southernmost large city in Texas, Brownsville. The zoo is located about 2½ miles from the International Bridge separating Mexico and the United States. It is named after its patron, Mrs. Gladys Porter, President of the Sams Foundation, which is named after her father, the late Earl C. Sams, life-long partner of J. C. Penney, in the operation of the J. C. Penney store chain. The zoo and the animals to stock it will cost about \$5,000,000, which is being supplied by the Foundation. Initially the zoo will be operated by the Valley Zoological Society. There is to be no commercialization, and all exhibits, except the Herpetarium, will be open-air, the animals exhibited around a large ox-bow lake, which is locally called a "resaca". It was formed by an old loop of the Rio Grande River. Due to the advantages of climate and vegetation and the presence of available water, the primary emphasis is on geographic settings and the maintenance of rare and endangered animal species. For convenience, logistics and other reasons, the bears are grouped in adjacent moats. The small mammals are grouped because of their special requirements, but are kept behind moats. Four areas will be represented: Tropical Africa, Tropical Asia, Indo-Australia and South America. Each geographical area has been set apart, as much as is feasible, from the rest of the zoo by substantial sight barriers, which are either heavily planted man-made rock or water moats. Public walkways will be twelve feet wide.

Many animals have already arrived at the zoo as construction is being rapidly completed, and as of early January 1971, the following were on the grounds, or nearby in holding areas:

4 Rock Wallabies, 2 Dama Wallabies, 2 Red Kangaroo, 1.2 Douc Langur, 0.2 Pileated Gibbon, 1.1 Lowland Gorilla, 7 Orang Utans (four legally imported from the zoo in Surabaya, two obtained from the Thousand Oaks animal auction of 1969, and a male born in the zoo in September by Cacs arcan section), 6 Cheetahs, 1.2 registered Siberian Tigers (a pair from Winnipeg stock, one female from Oklahoma City), 1.3 Grevy Zebras, 1.1 Brazilian Tapir, 1.1 Malayan Tapir, 1.1 Woolly Tapir (formerly at San Antonio Zoo), 1.1 White Rhinoceros, 1.0 Bongo, 1.4 Bushbuck, 1.3 Reticulated Giraffe, 1.0 Black Duiker, 2.3 Yellow-backed Duiker, 1.3 Jentink Duiker, 4 Aldabra and 5 Galapagos Tortoises. Also recently arrived are a pair of Pigmy Hippopotamus.

Staffing of the zoo includes Dr. Warren Thomas as Director; Dr. Don Farst as Assistant Director (both are veterinarians); Mr. Tom Hoover, Curator and Mr. Patrick Burchfield, Associate Curator.

It will be interesting to see the progress made at this zoo, located in a very ideal zoo climate (very similiar to that of Miami, Florida) and

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS
JUNE 25-27, 1971

HOST KEEPERS; BRONX ZOO CHAPTER AAZK, Zoo Director, William Conway

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: STATLER - HILTON, 7th Ave, 32nd Street, New York City

ROOM RATES: \$16.00 Single - \$24.00 double

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE \$15.00 per person

(Includes Banquet, Cocktail Party, Zoo Lunch, and transportation to and from hotel and Zoo)

ATTENTION: Conference fee payable to AAZK, 8024 Tommy Drive, San Diego, California, 92119

UPON RECEIPT OF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM COMPLETE CONFERENCE MATERIALS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.

EARLY REGISTRATION WILL ASSIST US IN OUR PLANNING

Name: _____ Position/Title _____ Zoo/Aquarium _____

_____ AAZK MEMBER _____ TYPE MEMBERSHIP _____

NUMBER IN PARTY _____ WILL ATTEND: Banquet _____ Cocktail Party _____ Lunch _____

Amount Fee Enclosed _____ Check/Money Order _____

I WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR OPTIONAL TOUR OF NEW YORK AQUARIUM ON SUNDAY JUNE 27 _____
yes/no

CONFERENCE PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

WE NEED SPEAKERS !!!!!!! ALL MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE, AFFILIATE OTHER ARE INVITED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN OUR PROGRAM. SPECIFIC PAPERS, SLIDES, FILM ETC.

IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE ADVISE EARLY.....

Name _____ Position/Title _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Subject of Presentation _____

I will need 16mm Projector _____ 2x2 Slide Projector/screen _____ Other _____

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PROGRAM PORTION OF FORM SHOULD BE MAILED TO: Mr Edward Roberts, 228 Ferry Street,
Everett, Mass., 02149

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especially in view of
the many rare animals
already acquired.

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

AAZK will welcome
commercial exhibits at
their June Conference
being held in New York
City June 25-27, 1971.

For complete
details and exhibit fees
please contact AAZK
Hq, 8024 Tommy Drive,
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1971.

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HQ RECIEVES INQUIRIES FOR CHAPTER APPLICATION

From: Boise City Zoo,
Idaho.
Houston Zoological Park,
Houston, Texas. Columbus Zoo, Columbus, Ohio.

REPORT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Rick Steenberg, Chairman of AAZK awards committee, reports that he is pleased with the response of many zoo directors, who have sent in nominees for our first annual presentation of the AAZK R. Marlin Perkins Certificate of Excellence. The presentations will be made at the Bronx, New York Conference in June.

GETTING UP STEAM TO SEE THE RHINOS AT WHIPSNADE PARK by Frank Meakins, Park Manager, Whipsnade Park, England

Today the Whipsnade and Umfolozi Railway gets up steam to take visitors through a large and exciting new enclosure where 22 White Rhinos roam as if on the plains of their South African home. The steam engine Chevallier, built in 1915 and weighing 27 tons, pulls the train which



"FOOT, TIKA - FOOT!"

Cartoon by Gil Crowell, Houston
Zoological Gardens



The Whipsnade herd of white rhinos are watched by a train load of sight-seers who tried out the new railway on Wednesday.—AW8196T.

will give you a close--up view of this magnificent spectacle.

The herd of White Rhinos consists of 8 males and 14 females, of which 6 are fully adult with the others varying in age from calves just free of their mothers to young animals approaching maturity. The largest male is probably about 10 years' old and the largest female somewhat older.

The White Rhino is a grazing animal and some 30 acres of Whipsnade parkland has been set aside for the herd, which is the largest to be seen anywhere outside Africa. From near extinction in Southern Africa at the turn of the century, the White Rhino has been so carefully protected and its habitat so well managed that the stock of this species in the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Game Parks of Natal has been built up to some 1,500 animals, with several hundred more transferred to other areas in Africa, and the species is now relatively safe.

The 20 animals which arrived recently at Whipsnade from Natal, to join the pair which had been there since 1967, are the first group of this size outside Africa and its establishment is the logical next step in the process of ensuring the conservation of this species for all time. The Whipsnade herd will eventually be able to supply all the needs of zoo collections in Europe.

Amongst all land mammals, the White Rhinoceros is second only to the elephant in size. An adult male measures 6 feet at the shoulder and may weigh more than 3 tons. The young (one only) born after a gestation period of 18 months, are only fully weaned at 12 months and may remain with the female for several years. Only slightly paler in colour than the Black Rhinoceros, the White species is believed to have acquired its name from the Dutch word "wijd" meaning "wide", which refers to the broad, square-lipped mouth that distinguishes it from the Black Rhino. There is another population of the White Rhino in the area where Uganda, the Sudan and the Congo meet around the White Nile.

At Whipsnade the Rhinos will spend the summer outside in the enclosure, grazing as they like but with lucerne hay available in the yards; the winter food will be provided inside the big house which will protect them from the vagaries of the English winter weather. The food will consist of 25 lbs. of concentrates and approximately 60 lbs. of hay a day for an

adult animal while the youngsters will be fed in proportion to size.

Whipsnade Park covers an area of some 500 acres and has an excellent record in the zoo world for the breeding of hoofed animals, including such rare species as the European Bison, the Pere David Deer, and the Przewalski's Horse, which are now all extinct in the wild. At present about 80% of the animals at Whipsnade were born in the Park, an all round achievement which includes many individual breeding successes, such as the first Cheetahs to be bred and reared to maturity in a Zoo.

Details about the Railway at Whipsnade

The Whipsnade and Umfolozi Railway has been set up and will be operated by a small private company, whose directors are all railway enthusiasts. The Company has made an agreement with the Zoological Society of London to operate the railway on a trial basis for a period of 2 years, after which its extension into other parts of Whipsnade Park will depend upon the success of the project during the first two seasons. Steam Engine: Chevallier, side-tank, 0-6-2, built 1915. Originally purchased by the Navy and bought second hand by Bowaters in 1950. Used at Bowaters Paper Mills at Sittingbourne, Kent, until recently. Weight - 27 tons. Maximum working pressure - 150 lbs. per square inch. Gauge - 2 ft. 6 ins. Capable of hauling approximately 600 tons on the level. Chevallier is to be joined by another steam engine: Conqueror, side-tank, 0-6-2. Weight - 27 tons. Built in 1922. There will be a small stand-by diesel engine weighing 10 tons.

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Recent visitor to AAZK Headquarters

Mr. Jess Roe, Seattle Chapter AAZK stopped at AAZK HQ. on a recent visit to San Diego. Enroute to San Diego, Jess stopped at the Folsom City Zoo, Folsom, California to deliver a baby Harbor Seal to Mr. Gordon Brong.

THE MARCH - APRIL ISSUE OF THE AAZK BULLETIN WILL CARRY AN ARTICLE ABOUT OUR 1972 NATIONAL CONFERENCE BEING PLANNED FOR HONOLULU, HAWAII!! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SEE THE HONOLULU ZOO. WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE PRICE!!!!!! IT WILL REALLY SURPRISE YOU..... AAZK WILL MAKE THAT VACATION DREAM COME TRUE. WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Dick;

On behalf of the thousands of people that come to our little Zoo, I want to say thanks for the beautiful Llama that was donated to us.

The first thanks goes to the "AAZK" and "Operation Concern". If it was not for them, this could never have come about. We are real proud to be a part of both.

Thanks should go to all of the others that had anything to do with the getting the animal all the way out here to California from New York.

Special Thanks should go to Mr. Roland Lindemann, President of the CATSKILL GAME FARM, INC. It was he who gave the Llama to the Association to give to us. It was a wonderful gesture, and shows his feeling towards us, "The Keepers". If we as keepers, can just continue do our jobs to the best of our abilities, keep trying to learn and to promote conservation, we can build up feelings like this all over the country.

Special Thanks should go to Mr. Harry Overbaugh, CATSKILL GAME FARM. He was the one that was instrumental in getting the transportation arranged. He got the animal out to San Diego.

Special Thanks should go to Mr. William (Bill) Cryster, El Cajon, California. He transported the animal from San Diego to Sacramento. There I was able to pick it up and haul it here to Folsom.

Thanksgiving Day was a very good day for us here in Folsom, that is the day that AZAK arrived. Yes, we call our new Llama AZAK after the Association. We hope that this is agreeable with all concerned. When people ask the name of the Llama, we tell them and then they ask, "Where in heck did you get a name like that?" And we are real glad to explain all about how and where the Llama came from.

One more special Thanks should go to you for being the instigator of the whole project.

Sincerely,

Gordon Brong, Folsom City Zoo

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF BABY JAGUARS by Martha Keller, Phoenix Zoo, Arizona

One hot day during the latter part of August, the Animal Nursery of the Phoenix Zoo was surprised by the arrival of a small wide-eyed bundle of fur and energy that claimed to be a baby jaguar. This event was repeated twice more to give the Phoenix Zoo a grand total of three new arrivals.

The most impressive feature of the new cubs, besides having their eyes open already, was how active they were, despite the strangeness of their new surroundings. These precocious little animals were covered with a soft, dense fur that was pale gold with black spots. Even the spots on the faces were distinct, although it is common for them to be run together into stripes on the new-born.

Upon arrival at the Nursery, each cub was put through the S.O.P. for newborn cats---the umbilical cord was tied off and then painted with 7% iodine solution. Each cub also received a shot of Normal Feline Serum, 1 cc/lb. of body weight, to protect against feline distemper. These injections were repeated every 10-14 days.

Since cats are born with a well filled intestine, the jaguars were not offered food for 12 hours---then they were put on a regular feeding schedule. This schedule consisted of 1 oz. of formula every 2½ hours, 7 times a day. An evenflo baby bottle with a cross-cut nipple was used. Sterilizing of all bottles and nipples is required for at least the first 5 weeks. The formula for the first three days was composed of ½ oz. Tabbi-lac and ½ oz. distilled water. The fourth and fifth days the dilution ratio was changed to 3/4 oz. Tabbi-lac to ¼ oz. water. Straight Tabbi-lac was used from the sixth day

on. The general plan for raising the cubs was taken from Bill Hoff's "Raising Baby Cats", a paper written at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

The problem of diarrhea was handled by addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ t. pablum to each feeding, with a slight decrease in total milk per meal. Their diet was changed in the fourth week to $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Tabbi-lac (with the $\frac{1}{2}$ t. of pablum permanently left in to supplement the regular diet) every 3 hours for a total of six feedings per day. At 5 weeks this was increased to 2 oz. per feeding and pans introduced. The cubs were at this point too eager and anxious for the bottle to permit safe feeding and thus came the switch. They remained anxious and proved to be very sloppy eaters so the milk per feeding was increased slightly to take into account the spillage.

At $6\frac{1}{2}$ weeks the jaguars were introduced to lean ground meat by addition of $\frac{1}{4}$ t. to their second feeding. No problem was encountered in getting the cubs to eat the meat---it was just added to their pan of milk. After three days the portion was increased to $\frac{1}{2}$ t. and given at the second and fourth feeding each day. The second week, $1\frac{1}{2}$ t. of meat was offered at the two meat feedings for 3 days and then, this amount was doubled for the rest of the week. When the jaguars were $8\frac{1}{2}$ weeks old, their feeding schedule consisted of three servings of milk a day ($3\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per feeding), at 6-hour intervals, with meat (10 t.) offered twice daily between the milk servings. The amount of meat offered varied from animal to animal accounting to their appetite, but all changes were made gradually to prevent diarrhea.

All three cubs were immediately started on a calcium supplement given once daily at the first feeding. At the end of their first week, one drop of a multiple liquid vitamin was also added to the first bottle. The vitamins were increased at the rate of one drop per week.

To facilitate elimination of waste material, the cubs were massaged after each feeding. This was accomplished by wetting the hand and gentle rubbing the anal and genital region. This massaging or "piddling" was no longer necessary after 5 weeks of age.

The cubs weighed an average of 1 lb. and $\frac{2}{3}$ oz. upon arrival at the nursery, and their weight gain per week varied from 6-20 oz. Their body temperature remained between $101-103^{\circ}$ until after 8 weeks of age. Usually the afternoon temperature was higher than the morning one. At four days they already had begun to teethe.

Each cub was kept in a separate isolette and it was found they were more comfortable at a temperature of 82° rather than the 85° that is normally recommended for newborn cats. During the 5th week, the cubs were placed in a larger cage during the day and returned to their isolettes at night. The larger cage was warmed by a heat lamp.

Besides being extremely coordinated at an earlier age than any other cat ever raised at the Animal Nursery, the jaguars compact body proved to be very muscular, especially the neck and jaw muscles. At 3 weeks of age they were able to hold their own weight by their jaws. At 5 weeks of age they were able to make surprisingly accurate leaps and climbs. But the most interesting aspect of their behavior noticed at the nursery was their complete lack of fear. Besides being feisty and healthy, their bold nature showed itself by the way they would freeze at a new sound, determine its origin, and immediately rush over to investigate. These three cubs have proved to be the biggest handful of cats raised in the Animal Nursery to date. (from "UNICORN" Vol.1, #4)

AAZK CELEBRATES THIRD BIRTHDAY

Members of AAZK from San Diego, Los Angeles, and surrounding areas attended the third annual anniversary dinner party for AAZK. This year the party

party was held at the Red Candle restaurant, Mission Valley, San Diego. Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Gordon Brong of the Folsom City Zoo, Folsom, California. Some 50 members and guests enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Special certificates of appreciation was presented to the members of the founding Board of Trustees of the San Diego chapter. Recieving this special recognition was Mr. Walter Bromley, Mr. Huey Hannon, Mr. Gerald Thomas, Mr. Ken Willingham, Mr. Carl Pyle and Mr. Conrad Grayson. A Certificate was also sent to Mr. Dennis Melvin who was unable to attend.

ZOO COMMERCIALISM VERSUS SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS by Jesse W. Strange,
Philadelphia, Pa. (associate member)

Rehashing an article written by Marvin Jones in the July-August issue of the AAZK Bulletin titled, "San Jose, America's Clean Zoo." This was of particular interest to me and one sentence really stood out. This was in reference to food and souvenir stands in Zoo's.

It is nice to know that there are some clean Zoo's in existance, and San Jose is to be complimented. However, a lot of Zoo's are not so clean and some of the larger Zoo's are the most flagrant. This is in no way a reflection on the Keeper. Old and delapidated buildings and cages may be used as an excuse, but a very poor one.

There is a lot of screaming going on about pollution, littering and the destruction of our wildlife and Naturalists say we are on the road to disaster. This may very well be, but some Naturalists speak from both sides of their mouths. These are the people in Zoo management.

Going into many Zoo's today reminds one of a Circus midway, the only thing missing are the clowns, and I sometimes wonder about that, they are probably around somewhere. Numerous souvenir stands and food counters are scattered all over, some of permanent nature and some only temporary. These stands offer quite a selection of junk. The food stands dispense soda's, hot dogs, cotton candy, frozen ice and apple taffy's on nice pointed sticks. This is topped off with peanuts and popcorn in large plastic bags.

On the other hand the souvenir stands offer a great variety of wood and metal trash. Canes, spears, monkey's and birds on sticks, containing sharp metal parts. Toy camera's that shoot cloth covered springs, and a host of other harmful objects. I would estimate that about 80% of the items on their containers, wind up in the cages.

Leopards, Jaguars, Monkey's and other more agile animals will readily grab a toy bird or monkey that is waved in front of their cage. I observed a Jaguar do just this on two different occasions. Once it devoured a bird with metal parts and at another time it consumed a furry monkey containing spring. It is fortunate that on both occasions the animal eliminated these objects without injury to itself.

Is there a difference between shooting an animal in its natural habitat or killing it with a Zoo souvenir? The animal is just as dead in either case. Being Keeper's with concern for your animals, you can picture a big Siberian Tiger with an apple taffy in its mouth. This taffy contained a pointed stick 5/16 by 6 inches. With the pointed end of the stick towards the roof of its mouth and the power of its huge jaws, you can realize the potential here.

This was also a fortunate incident, as the Cats attention was diverted and the taffy removed. Another cute stunt is to throw plastic popcorn bags into the Sea-lion pool. You can imagine what would happen if the Sea-lion managed to get it over his head or even swallow it.

It is understandable for self supported Zoo's to seek some sort of additional revenue but not at the expense of the animals. There is no excuse for large Zoo's supported by tax money, to resort to these practices. I believe Zoo's should have a place for visitors to eat and buy souvenirs,

but with in reason. Management should make up their minds if they want a Zoo or an amusement park.

A recent article in a local paper quoted a former large city Mayor as saying, "People louse the place up". No truer words were ever spoken but they received help at times from the place. How many times have you had your building or area spotless only to have the first arrivals throw trash on the floor and start to pelt the animals with peanuts. You find yourself making mental measurements, wondering if you could possibly jam this character's head through the bars.

Again, I say it's nice to hear about places like San Jose Zoo. Thanks to Marvin Jones they received the publicity they deserved.

THE PYGMY HIPPOPOTAMUS (CHOEROPSIS LIBERIENSIS) THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF LIFE by Richard G. Sweeney, Senior Keeper, San Diego Zoo

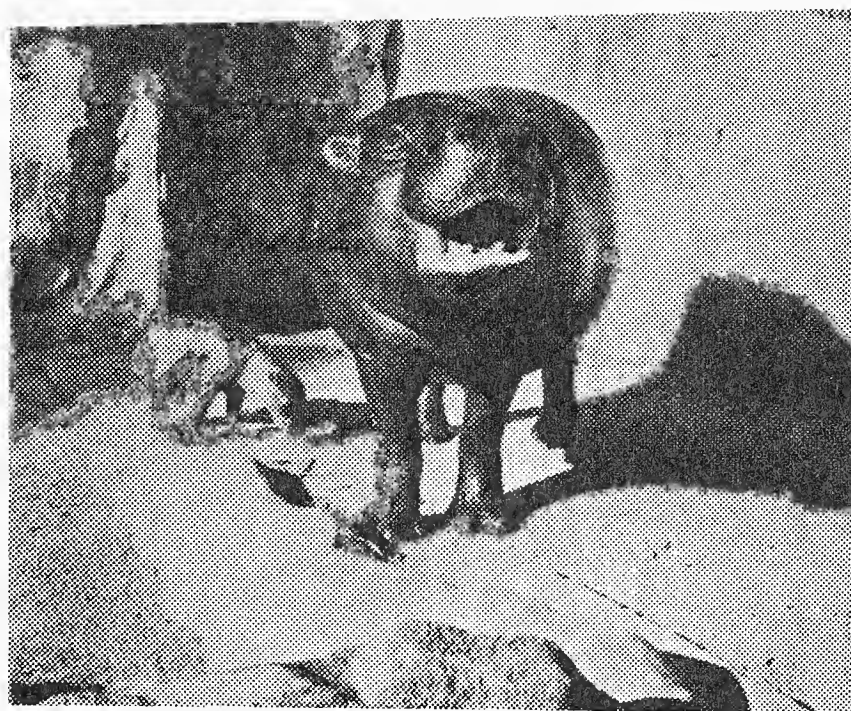
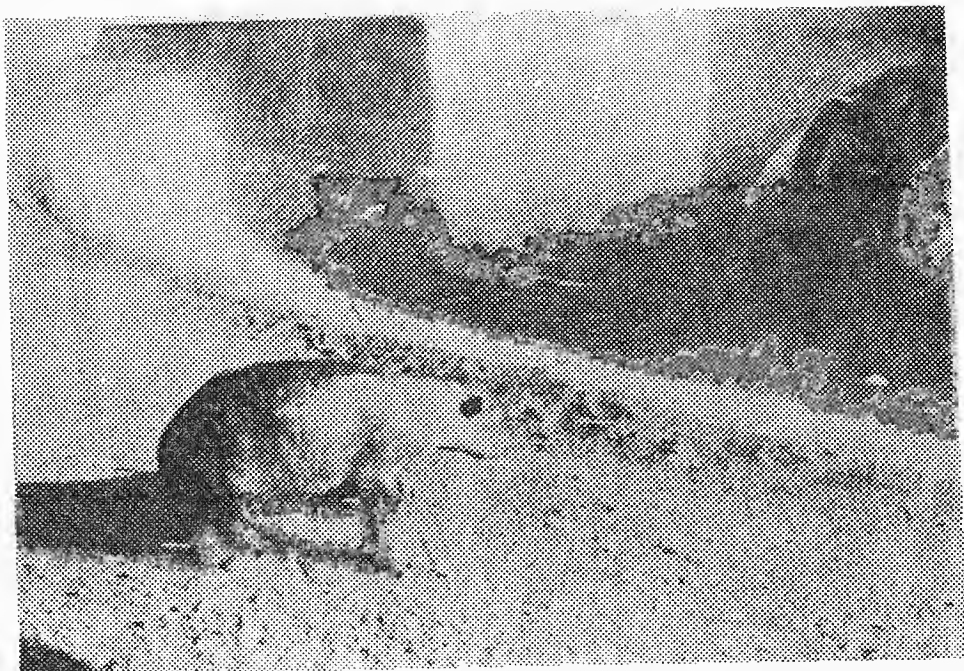
As with any rare or notable birth of a given species in captivity, the zoo man's first reaction is to speculate on what was done right. We design our questions to varify our right to take credit for the event. If we're honest, we concede all pride to the natural parents. However, being privileged to report such a happening should justify our claim for a few of the labor pains.

While the birth of a Pygmy Hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) is not new to the zoo world, it's a first for the San Diego Zoo.

We have exhibited our trio (1,2) since April 1963. The male and one of the females were wild caught from the Ivory Coast area of Africa. The other female came from the Basel Zoological Gardens. All were young adults on arrival. Our calf is from the African caught female.

The first signs of breeding began in April of 1970. There is no record of mating attempts prior to this time. Based on the assumption that the male and female were about 18 months of age in 1963, this could bear that the female had just reached puberty¹.

The male and female have shared the same enclosure for some time. The other female (Basel) is kept alone since her disposition is somewhat unpredictable. The first observations of copulation were recorded April 20, 1970 by Mr. William Cryster, Assistant Principal Keeper. Breeding was witnessed again by myself on May 14. Both periods of estrus appeared to



be about twenty-four hours. No further periods were observed and hopes were raised. Then the long period of "is she or isn't she". If I learned anything during this time, it was to never be positive of the pregnancy. It was difficult to detect any sure signs. There was little, if any, noticeable change in girth or disposition of the animal. So, if the question is honestly answered, we "suspected". (But now we're sure.)

At 7 A.M. on December 20, 1970, I discovered the calf in the shallow end of the exhibit pool with the female. I would estimate birth had occurred shortly before my arrival². I feel certain birth occurred in the water because there were no birth signs on the adjoining beach or barn area. The umbilical cord was severed and the calf was being nosed about the pool. The remaining cord attached to the baby was about 6 inches long. First observations indicated she was healthy and very strong. I would estimate her weight at birth to be 12-15 pounds.

I cautiously entered the exhibit area to usher the male who was submerged in the deep end of the pool to separate quarters behind the enclosure. The female made no aggressive moves toward me, but immediately placed herself between me and the calf. This was warning enough and after securing the male, I immediately left the exhibit area. The female promptly moved to deeper water and the calf followed. The mother rolled on her side and seemed to cradle the youngster near her neck. She remained quiet for some time. At approximately 8:15 A.M., I observed the calf nursing. The female had rolled over stretching her hind leg and giving the calf a nudge. The calf began exploring and finally reached the nipples, now submerged about four inches under water. The young would go under water for 10 or 15 seconds intervals for a period of about 2 minutes. The mother then returned to an upright position and walked to shallow water where both rested for quite some time. The next feeding occurred about 10 A.M. and approximately every two hours thereafter until 2 P.M. (They remained in the pool all this time.) At 2 P.M., I discovered the placenta floating in the pool and removed it for examination at the zoo hospital. Shortly thereafter, the female walked from the pool to the bedroom area behind the exhibit and the calf followed. Both entered the barn area where the calf was covered with hay by the female. The mother then returned to the beach area to feed. When she finished, she returned to the barn and remained there for several hours before taking the calf back to the pool.

I have noticed a very set pattern has been developed since the birth. The early morning hours are spent in the warm water³, with brief strolls to the beach or bedroom area during the afternoon, followed by a long period in the small barn. All observed nursing has taken place in the pool.

For the first five days, the female took the calf to the barn area and returned alone to eat. On the 6th and 7th day, the baby remained in the water while the mother ventured onto the beach, but she would return to the pool edge periodically and call to the calf. On the 9th and 10th day, the calf followed the mother to the feeder and began to sniff and nibble at the alfalfa hay and vegetables. From then on she accompanied the mother every time she left the pool.

At two weeks of age, I would estimate a gain of four pounds in weight and a tremendous gain in strength.

No significant changes in cleaning routines were made, except to leave the pool undisturbed for the first three days, and to limit maintenance to one brief entry of the exhibit area each day. On the third day when the water was changed in the pool, the animals remained in the barn area until the water had warmed.⁴ Changing of water has taken place every three days since. Now, each time the water is lowered, both animals

walk out to the beach or barn until it is refilled.

Probably the most notable observation is the attentiveness of the mother without any signs of aggressiveness towards the keepers. If one ventures too close to the calf, she warns you away with a hearty snort but makes no move to charge. The male has to date remained separated. The task of re-introduction may cause a problem but knowing his ability to reproduce turns it into an undeniable challenge.

We now have hopes that our other female is pregnant and higher hopes of adding many more to our group.

A FEW STATISTICS:

1. Based on our observation of breeding, gestation was between 210 and 230 days.
2. Prior to March of 1970, the public was allowed to feed the animals. We posted "NO FEED" signs and the animals no longer walked the fence lines looking for hand outs. Breeding occurred in April. Perhaps this is of no significance but may have been a contributing factor.
3. Diet: Approximately 20 pounds alfalfa per animal daily, several carrots, apples and sweet potatoes, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of fresh barley (Hydroponic).
4. Exhibit area 40' x 80';, pool approximately 20' x 40', water level 6" to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' depth.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Frechkop (1955:520) states 8 years as the age of sexual maturity for the female.
2. It should be noted here that the male remained with her throughout pregnancy and was in the enclosure when the calf was born.
3. Pools are heated to 79 degrees F.
4. The pool is heated by gas and a circulating system.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Crandall, Lee S., Management of Wild Animals in Captivity, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1964.

HELP!!

All Elephant keepers interested in conducting a North American census of Elephants, please state number of Elephants in your collection and I will send you the same number of questionnaires. All information will be published in the A.A.Z.K. BULLETIN upon completion. Toby Styles, #92-5425 Pensacola Cr. S.E. Calgary 22, Alta, Canada

Seeking information on recent (since 1950) breeding and births of Pinnipeds, in order to study the success of captive breeding.

Breck Jones, Louisville Zoological Garden, 1100 Trevilian Way, Louisville, Kentucky, 40213

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KEEPERS CAN SHOW THEIR AWARENESS BY ORDERING ECOLOGY INSIGNIA PINS FROM AAZK HEADQUARTERS, 8024 TOMMY DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, 92119. THE GREEN "EARTH ECOLOGY" SYMBOL ON A WHITE BACKGROUND WITH THE INSCRIPTION, "KEEPER'S CARE" IS AN EASY WAY TO ATTRACT PUBLIC INTEREST TO CONSERVATION.

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POSITIONS WANTED:

This ad appears in the Dec. 1970 issue of Communique. The Ad: Experienced reptile man with approximately 15 years zoo experience wishes position as Curator of Reptiles, General Curator, Assistant Director, or Director. Have worked with several large zoos and with most animals, but mostly reptiles. Will send resume and several letters of recommendation as well as other information to anyone interested. Write: Robert M. Dellis, 994 Valencia #4, Costa Mesa, California, 92626.

Professional Objective: Zoo Administration. Ultimate goal - Director of a zoological garden. B.S. Iowa State University, 1969. While I deeply regret that I have had no actual involvement with a zoo other than as an interested observer, I feel the depth and variety of my background has provided me with an ample foundation from which to enter this field. I feel I can offer a sincere desire to learn plus a demonstrated ability to adapt to varied conditions. References and resume will be furnished upon request. Dean Harry Kruse, c/o Senior Naval Advisor, Box 8 (N 300), FPO San Francisco, California, 96626.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ZOO KEEPERS IT'S YOUR ORGANIZATION!!
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NEEDED: ARTICLES

WHY DON'T YOU, YES YOU, CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES TO THE AAZK BULLETIN, TO MAKE THIS GOOD PUBLICATION A BETTER ONE? LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS, LOCAL ZOO NEWS, WHAT YOU PERHAPS TAKE FOR GRANTED, OTHERS WOULD BE MORE THAN INTERESTED TOO! HAVE ANY OPINIONS ON ZOO PHILOSOPHY? NOTED ANY OBSERVATIONS ON ANIMAL CARE? ANIMAL BEHAVIOR? GOOD, SEND IT ALONG. YOUR COOPERATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED. PLEASE SEND INFORMATION AND ARTICLES TO: AAZK HEADQUARTERS, 8024 TOMMY DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, 92119. THANK YOU!!

IN SYMPATHY:

Mr. Tom Dickerson, Bear Keeper at the Pittsburgh Zoo, Pittsburgh, Penna. died at the age of 25. The AAZK extends its sympathy to his wife and four children.

NOTICE TO ALL AAZK KEEPERS

The Central Zoo Regional Workshop will be held APRIL 22-23, 1971 in Houston, Texas.

PLACE: Marriott Motor Hotel

A pre-conference "MIXER" will be held April 21 (evening)

You are encouraged to present papers of a specific nature so that all those attending the conference may benefit from your experience and knowledge. We will contact you at a later date concerning titles and subject matter of your papers. WE WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION.....

The traditional film festival will be included.....

X X

WRITE TO: Houston Zoological Gardens, 509 City Hall, Houston, Texas, 77002

[illegible]

KEMPERS RECIEVE DIPLOMAS ((Vol 5, No3 "What's New at the Zoo" Phila. Zoological Gardens)

Eleven keepers who completed the 14-week Keeper Training Course recieved their diplomas on Wednesday, March 10 and Monday March 15. Zoo Director and Curator of Reptiles, Roger Conant awarded the keepers their diplomas at special ceremonies held at 3PM in the staff dining room. Those keepers recieving sheepskins were Senior Keepers; Sarah Cunius, James Davidson, Robert Hartley, Mario Vitali, and Albert Woerner, and Junior Keepers Bradford Beckley, Tom Brown, Charles Doris, Charles Fagan, Mike Homola and George Lutman.

For the benefit of the press corps, a mock graduation was staged earlier in the day in the Elephant House, with Petal, our three tom African Elephant led by Sr. Keeper Jim McNellis dispensing the diplomas.

ED.NOTE: AAZK EXTENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PHILADELPHIA KEEPERS INVOLVED.

BROOKFIELD CHAPTER 1971 OFFICERS

Brookfield chapter, three years with AAZK has elected its new board.

Serving as President is: Dick Soderlund, Vic President Gay Keuster, Secretary Ron Zdrubeckey, Treasurer Ralph Small, Sgt at Arms Bob McDonald, Executive Secretary Dewey Garvey ---- Past President Ed Schnieder

Honorary Members - Dr Peter Crowcroft, Mr Cliff Jones.

NEW AAZK CHAPTERS

Kansas City, Mo., Columbus, Ohio, Louisville, Ky.

HONOLULU ZOO

100% keeper membership has been recorded for the Honolulu Zoo and chapter status will be awarded in the near future.

Clyde Saragosa, Keeper is serving as the 1972 Conference Chairman for AAZK. He is coordinating conference planning with Dick Sweeney, National Hq.

Mr Jack Throp, Honolulu Director was in San Diego and met with Dick Sweeney regarding the proposed 72 meet. More conference details will be published soon.

Hilo, Hawaii - Mr Anselm Yazaki, Manager of the new Hilo Zoo has become an associate member of AAZK.

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